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FACT SHEET

CRIME DOWN BY 2.9% OVERALL DURING FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 2006

***Residents half as likely to be victims of violent crime in 2006 than in 1996;
Violent Crime Down for 3 Years in a Row***

Mayor Jerry Sanders and Police Chief William Lansdowne today released the crime statistics for the first six months of 2006. The stats showed a decrease in violent and property crime from last year's figures for the same six-month period.

San Diego continues to be one of the safest big cities in America. The City continues to be protected by one of the smallest police forces in the nation: roughly 1.6 police officers for every 1,000 citizens in our community.

The January-June 2006 index crime figures show that:

- The total number of “**index crimes**” went down 2.9% during the first six months of this year. Index crimes include:
 - murder
 - rape
 - robbery
 - aggravated assault
 - burglary
 - larceny
 - motor vehicle theft.
 - Index crimes went from 40.45% in 2005 to 39.08% for the first six months of this year. The percentage is calculated as crimes per 1,000 citizens.
- **Violent crime** went down 2.5% during the first six months of 2006, when compared to that same time period in 2005.
 - Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.
 - There were 3,140 violent crimes from January to June 2006, compared to 3,219 during the same time in 2005.

- San Diegans were **almost half as likely** to be victims of violent crime in 2006 than they were in 1996.
- **The violent crime rate has gone down eight of the past 10 years, and three years in a row.**
- Although the number of homicides (+56%, 36 compared to 23) and robberies (+8.6%, 987 compared to 909) increased over the same period last year, there is no clear and convincing pattern that would represent that they are nothing more than unrelated incidents.
- The number of rapes decreased 14.1% (159 compared to 185 in 2005) and aggravated assaults dropped 6.9% (1,958 compared to 2,102 in 2005)
- The number of juvenile victims of violent crime decreased 5.5% from the first half of last year. The total number of crimes dropped from 421 to 398.
 - Daytime totals decreased by 1.25 percent from 72 in 2005 to 63 in 2006
 - After school hours declined slightly by 1.9% from 258 to 263
 - Curfew hours fell by 9.9% from 91 to 82.
- **Property crime** decreased across the board by 3% overall—when compared to the same time period in 2005.
 - Property crimes include burglary, larceny or theft, and auto theft.
 - During the first six months of this year there were 22,479 property crimes, as compared to 23,171 during the first six months of 2005.
 - Vehicle theft decreased during that same time period—6,619 in 2006 versus 6,844 in 2005.
 - Larceny or theft cases decreased from 12,296 in 2006 compared to 12,635 in the first half of 2005.

Overall, just 39 out of 1,000 residents were crime victims. **This is the second lowest index crime rate in the past decade.** (The index crime rate in 2000 was 36.30)

- **Domestic violence** cases decreased by 9.4% in the first half of 2006, with 4,298 cases as compared to 4,747 during the same period last year.
 - Cases involving firearms decreased by 25% over the same time period in 2005.
 - The number of domestic violence cases decreased for the fifth consecutive year.
- **Hate crimes** dropped by more than 14%; it was the fifth straight annual decline. The 42 cases reported last year were down two-thirds from the number seven years ago.

- **Crimes committed by gang members** decreased 9.9% in January to June of this year compared with last year.